


## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** September 13, 1996

**TO:** Mohandas Bhat, Elaine Gallin, Cherie Gianino, Frank Hawkins,  
Ruth Neta, Joseph Weiss, Libby White

**FROM:** Barrett Fountos 

**SUBJECT:** Summary of the Meeting Concerning the Future Role of Lawrence  
Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) in the Chernobyl Thyroid and  
Leukemia Studies and Decision on Future DOE/NCI Interactions,  
September 12, 1996

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This memo is to summarize the meeting of concerning the future role of LLNL in the NCI-managed Chernobyl thyroid and leukemia studies and the decision on future DOE/NCI interactions on these studies. The meeting was held on September 12, 1996, at NCI at LLNL's request. A copy of the agenda is attached.

### Outcomes:

- LLNL's long-term role is to be determined. Within one year, NCI plans to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) and award through open competition a scientific and logistical support contract.
- LLNL's short-term role is to be determined. Although the purpose of the meeting was to clarify LLNL's role on the Chernobyl studies, NCI will not resolve the issue until late October 1996 when it plans to review its FY97 budget before developing an interim management plan.
- NCI will revise the draft DOE/NCI Interagency Agreement to reflect the mutual decision to have DOE serve as a provider of \$800,000 for the three projects in FY97 without scientific, managerial, or policy input.

### Participants:

Dr. Paul Seligman, EH-6, chaired the meeting. Participants included:

Dr. Lynn Anspaugh, LLNL  
Dr. Faye Austen, NCI  
Mr. Todd Cole, NIH Research Contracts  
Branch  
Ms. Nancy Coleman, NIH Research  
Contracts Branch

Mr. Barrett Fountos, EH-63  
Dr. Elaine Gallin, EH-63  
Ms. Sheilah Hendrickson, LLNL  
Dr. Ihor Masnyk, NCI

## I. Discussion on LLNL's Future Role in the Chernobyl Leukemia and Thyroid Studies

Dr. Anspaugh stated that his goal was disassociate LLNL from NCI's Radiation Effects Branch. His concerns focused on lack of a scientific role for LLNL in the NCI-managed Chernobyl studies and issues concerning the purchase and delivery of equipment and supplies for these studies. Originally, NCI did not want to perform this activity in-house. LLNL is not a support services center; its participation was conditional on some type of scientific role for LLNL staff beyond that of the purchase and delivery of equipment. Dr. Anspaugh is in the process of shutting down the project because of the absence of a scientific role for LLNL staff. Because of concerns for long-term stability of the contract, two key staff LLNL have resigned.

Dr. Anspaugh's major points included:

- The need for a clear definition of support, i.e., whereas LLNL's roles concerning science and dosimetry are clear on DOE-managed work, they remain undefined on the NCI-managed work.
- The need to clarify interim and long-term management plans for these studies.

Dr. Anspaugh proposed to complete current projects in FY97. Little work is directly related to DOE/NCI studies because the studies have yet to be initiated. For FY98, he proposed moving the following studies to support the Byelorussian study:

- Belarus thyroid cancer study - dosimetry paper to be published.  $I^{129}$  has a half-life of 16 million years and is a surrogate for  $I^{131}$ . The thyroid cancer concentrated in Gome and Briesk oblosk. Iodine and cesium appear to have disassociated. The dose from short-lived radioiodines was much greater than previously thought. This activity originally was performed by LLNL with funds outside of this contract.
- Iodine deposition map of Belarus - may or may not have relevance to Belarus thyroid study.

He pointed out the need for a contractual mechanism to provide dosimetric support in Belarus:

- The Moscow Institute of Biophysics (IOB) Contract - who should be responsible: LLNL, NCI, or DOE? Russian dosimetrists assist by on the Belarus studies; they have the original data; they did the dosimetry for the case-control study; and Belarus lacks dosimetrists.
- The Moscow IOB needs a contract for \$25,000 for Moscow dosimetrists used for Belarus thyroid dosimetry. It was agreed not to give funding to Belarus for fear that

they might not forward the money to Moscow). It was further agreed that no funds would be sent to Belarus until it signed the required agreement.

One joint risk assessment on the Ukraine childhood thyroid cancer study is in press (funds not derived from this project).

It is unclear who is in charge of the Ukraine leukemia project. Dosimetry is supportive of the study. For the cytogenetics study, U.S. laboratory technicians will go to Ukraine to train two Kiev cytogeneticists on the proper performance of FISH analysis.

Dr. Anspaugh would prefer to devote his efforts to the cataract and dosimetry studies.

Dr. Masnyk asked Dr. Anspaugh to clarify what is meant by more active scientific role. Dr. Anspaugh responded that his interpretation LLNL's involvement in NCI-managed projects in FY98 appeared to be zero. NCI refused to provide a clear project management structure during the 8 years the project have been funded by DOE. LLNL and NCI timetables are disparate in that LLNL views the work to be performed with a sense of urgency. He opined that NCI waited so long that it might not be possible to locate most of the cohort.

NCI plans to compete all scientific contractor support, including the work performed now by LLNL. Contract solicitation and award is anticipated within one year.

LLNL's long-term role to provide scientific and logistical support is to be determined. Its short-term role will be determined after the Branch retreat in October when elements of the interim management plan and FY97 budget would be considered.

## **II. Decision on DOE/NCI Interactions**

Dr. Seligman presented and NCI agreed to Option I, no partnership (DOE funnel). It was mutually agreed that NCI will revise the draft DOE/NCI Interagency Agreement in which DOE will provide \$800,000 for the three projects in FY97 without scientific, managerial, or policy input.

Dr. Gallin raised concerns for signing the leukemia protocol on October 24 without secured funding (\$400,000-450,000 from France).

Attachment